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SEP 07 2001

GROUP 3700

FACSIMILE COVER LETTER

September 6, 2001

Please deliver the following pages to:

ATTN: Examiner Sam Rimell
COMPANY/FIRM: U.S.P.T.O.
CITY & STATE: Washington, D.C.
Client/Matter No: 118776-1001
Telecopier No: 703-308-7768

FROM: Philip G. Meyers
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NUMBER OF PAGES (including this cover sheet): 3

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S-P 12 2001

To: Primary Examiner Sam Rimmel
From: Attorney Philip Meyers

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Technology Center 2100

RE: Attorney Docket Number: 118776-1001
In re Application of: Brock et al.
Serial No.: 09/327,593
Filed: June 8, 1999
Art Unit: 3712
For: INTERCHANGEABLE PANEL MODULAR DISPLAY

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GROUP 3700**PROPOSED AMENDMENT**

The attached amendments are proposed for discussion in a telephone interview in the foregoing application.

A number of claims are already allowed in this case. Claims 12 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 112, par. 2, based on the expression "which decorative surface has an appearance that corresponds to an environment that the interchangeable display system simulates". The examiner also applied the Sauder patent in rejecting the same claims under 35 USC 102. The undersigned assumes that the "decorative surface" limitation, being considered indefinite, was not considered when comparing the claim to the prior art. Sauder describes a wood frame building wall that is full size (not miniature) and not described as decorated in any specific way. Before filing a response, the applicant wishes to inquire whether the attached amendments would be considered definite by the examiner, and if so, sufficient to distinguish Sauder, which is not concerned with wall panel decoration.

"Setting" and "background" are synonyms for "environment", and applicant would be willing to substitute either of these terms for the word "environment" if the examiner feels such a change would make claim 19 more clear. The focus of the display system, of which a doll house is one example, is to reproduce a setting on a miniature scale.

Any suggestions the examiner may have are welcome. If agreeable, the examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone.

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Proposed claim amendments Serial No. 09/327,593:

12. (Twice Amended) An interchangeable panel display kit usable to make an interchangeable panel modular display system, which display system includes a frame including a base and at least one wall section positionable in an upright position when the base is placed horizontally on a surface, which wall section has grooves for slidably receiving a wall panel therein and an opening for inserting a wall panel into the grooves and for removing the wall panel from the grooves, and at least one wall panel slidably insertable into the grooves of the wall section, the wall panel comprising a support and a decorative surface disposed on at least one side of the support, which decorative surface has [an appearance] a design thereon that corresponds to [an environment] a miniature setting that the interchangeable display system simulates, wherein the kit comprises:

at least one frame; and

a plurality of interchangeable wall panels having a variety of decorative [surfaces] decorative surface designs so that the appearance of the display system can be changed by removal and replacement of the wall panels.

19. An interchangeable panel display system, comprising:

a frame including a base, a first wall section positionable in an upright position when the base is placed horizontally on a surface, which first wall section has grooves for slidably receiving a wall panel therein and an opening for inserting a wall panel into the grooves and for removing the wall panel from the grooves, and a second wall section positionable in an upright position when the base is placed horizontally on a surface, which second wall section has grooves for slidably receiving a wall panel therein and an opening for inserting a wall panel into the grooves and for removing the wall panel from the grooves; and

a first wall panel slidably insertable into and removable from the grooves of the first wall section, the first wall panel comprising a support having a first decorative surface disposed on at least one side of the support, which decorative surface has a first design thereon [an appearance that corresponds to an environment that the interchangeable display system simulates]; and

a second wall panel slidably insertable into and removable from the grooves of the second wall section, the second wall panel comprising a support having a decorative surface disposed on at least one side of the support, which decorative surface has a second design thereon [an appearance that corresponds to the environment that the interchangeable display system simulates but] is different from the first design, wherein the first and second designs cooperate to depict a predetermined miniature setting [decorative surface of the first wall panel].

ALTERNATE:

... which decorative surface has [an appearance] a design thereon that corresponds to [an environment] a miniature interior decor or outdoor scenery that the interchangeable display system simulates...

(Miniature interior building decor, as one form of miniature setting, currently appears in dependent claim 18. Outdoor scenery appears at page 6, line 25 of the specification.)